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Official Records

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

408th Meeting
Friday, 28 July 1995, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Hohenfellner . . . . . (Austria)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Attendance by non-members of the Committee

The Chairman: I should like to inform members that I have received *notes-verbales* from the delegation of Panama, in which it requests permission to attend the current session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space as an observer. I therefore suggest that, in conformity with past practice, we invite that delegation to attend the current session and to address the Committee as appropriate. This, of course, is without prejudice to further requests of this nature and does not involve any decision by the Committee concerning status. It is a courtesy we customarily extend to delegations.

If there is no objection, we shall proceed accordingly.

It was so decided.

General exchange of views *(continued)*

Mr. Maclure (United States of America): In addressing the Committee for the first time, my delegation extends its welcome to you, Sir, on your return as Chairman of the Committee. We expect that all delegations will benefit from your knowledge and experience during this session.

My delegation would also like to congratulate and extend a warm welcome to Ambassador Mazilu of Romania on his assumption of the vice-chairmanship of the Committee.

My delegation would like to take the earliest opportunity at this session to express our concern regarding the maintenance of the principle of consensus in the work of the Committee, and to reiterate for the Committee the views of the United States on this important issue, as delivered at this year's meetings of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee.

To begin, we believe that there can be no doubt that the United States is seriously committed to the work of this Committee and its Subcommittees. Over the past 10 years the United States has made great efforts to contribute to the revitalization of the Committee's work and, in concert with other members, has helped to make the Committee a relevant forum for the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

The commitment of the United States has been underscored by its efforts over the years to provide and exchange information, to participate in and contribute to workshops and special meetings sponsored by the Committee and to make expert presentations on state-of-the-art developments in space science technology and applications.

With these facts in mind, my delegation wishes all to recall that during last year's session of the General Assembly the principle of consensus was abandoned on a Committee question through the introduction of a separate draft resolution. Until last year this Committee maintained consensus as the sole basis for effectively

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conducting its work. It cannot be too often or too strongly emphasized that the Committee was established with a commitment to achieving what was achievable through consensus. Unfortunately, there always have been sceptics in this forum with little enthusiasm for the exercise of the principle of consensus.

During the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly the United States was unable to support the separate draft resolution because it did not reflect the consensus agreement reached at last year's session of the Committee, clearly recorded in paragraphs 156 and 157 of the Committee's report (A/49/20).

Last year the United States fully expected that the consensus agreement reached in this Committee would subsequently be honoured by all in the General Assembly. It is regrettable that the final hours of the General Assembly, instead, saw the Committee's principle of consensus discarded.

The United States continues to believe that the principle of consensus is the only basis on which the Committee and its Subcommittees can work and is the only basis on which the United States can productively participate in the work of the Committee.

Having made that point, my delegation would like to comment briefly on the Committee's activities during the past year.

My delegation wishes to note that there have been some positive developments that deserve mention. The United States finds the level of cooperation, compromise and consensus exercised in the two Subcommittees earlier this year to be encouraging. The spirit expressed and the effort expended by all members bode well for the future success of the Committee.

Accomplishments in the work of the Subcommittees have been due, in part, to the current state of international affairs, where a global tide of political and social change is infusing member States with optimism and presenting new opportunities for cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. A significant and auspicious example of this new wave in relationships was the spectacular on-orbit rendezvous earlier this year of the Shuttle and Mir spacecraft — an event that demonstrated for the world community the potential of the nexus of technology and good will.

Optimistic and cooperative attitudes led to the successful organization of a multi-year work plan for the agenda item on space debris in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. This plan will contribute to the establishment of the firm scientific and technical understanding necessary for any future action on the complex attributes of space debris. The United States continues to believe, however, that it is not appropriate to discuss the issue of debris in the Legal Subcommittee, or to develop recommendations in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to underpin new legal norms for debris, until such scientific and technical understanding is achieved.

The Subcommittee session also was rich with scientific and technical presentations by many delegations. Such exchange of information reinforces my delegation's view that the Committee is on the right track in pursuing scientific and technical understanding in all aspects of its work. My delegation will have additional comments on the report of the Subcommittee under agenda item 5.

The forum of the Legal Subcommittee also saw success in its debate this year. Perhaps most importantly, progress was made in the Subcommittee on the perennial issue of the organization of its work. Committee members have always agreed that efforts to strengthen their cooperation also imply the need for ongoing improvement in the working methods of the Committee and its Subcommittees. The United States is gratified at and applauds the course followed by the Subcommittee in agreeing to take action on specific issues, including the length of the session and the use of conference services, that will improve the Subcommittee's efficiency and ultimate effectiveness. My delegation will again address the Subcommittee's activities under agenda item 6.

Finally, my delegation would like to laud the Committee's efforts in arranging for numerous workshops, seminars and training programmes that have brought the beneficial applications of space science and technology to nations and regions around the world. During this session, under agenda item 8, on the spin-off benefits of space technology, the Committee will discuss how the use and exploration of outer space can enrich peoples' lives in many practical and beneficial ways.

In this regard, my delegation is pleased to note that the United States will host — in cooperation with the

Office for Outer Space Affairs — an international spin-off conference next year. With reference to this and other activities, my delegation wishes once again to express its great appreciation for the untiring work of Dr. Abiodun and his United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

During the next two weeks the Committee will once again be challenged with broadening the opportunities for and deepening cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. My delegation expects that the Committee will take full advantage of these opportunities and avoid extraneous issues, such as disarmament, that have created contention in the past.

The United States believes that the spirit of cooperation, compromise and consensus can again thrive in the Committee's thirty-eighth session, can serve as a fitting tribute to the United Nations on its fiftieth anniversary and can realize the potential for good in humankind's manifest destiny on the final frontier of space. The United States looks forward with great expectations.

Mr. Sölendil (Turkey): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your continued chairmanship of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). My delegation has full confidence that under your usual able leadership, this session also will achieve successful results. I wish also to congratulate Ambassador Mazilu of Romania on his election as Vice-Chairman. I am sure we will benefit from his wise leadership as well.

My delegation also extends its appreciation to the Secretariat — Mr. Jasentuliyana and his staff — for their excellent work in preparing this session as well as past sessions of the Subcommittees. We wish also to express our gratitude to Professor Carver, who is retiring from the chairmanship of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We wish him the very best.

As a member of COPUOS since 1977, Turkey has been deeply interested, and has actively participated, in its work. My country does not have a long history of space activities, but both the legal and scientific aspects are followed carefully by the Turkish authorities, and institutional arrangements are made to respond efficiently to the requirements of those activities.

As you mentioned in your opening statement yesterday, Mr. Chairman, the first national telecommunications satellite, TURKSAT 1-B, owned and to be operated by the Turkish Telekom Company, was launched in July 1994. The satellite carried 16 transformers, which operate in Ku-bands and cover three geographical regions. These are centred over Turkey, Western Europe and Central Asia. TURKSAT 1-B provides services such as direct television and radio broadcasting, telephone, fax, data and telex services via IBS stations, support of private networks of banks, hotels and airlines, remote control systems, diplomatic correspondence and security services. Television reception by 60- to 120-centimetre antennas is possible to accommodate five State-owned and dozens of private television channels in Turkey.

We share the view that remote-sensing activities should take into account the need to provide appropriate and non-discriminatory assistance to meet the needs of the developing countries, and that remote-sensing data and analysed information should be made available to all countries at a reasonable cost and in a timely manner, including those from operational meteorological satellites.

We agree in principle with the multi-year work plan on space debris adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its last session. We also agree that international cooperation is necessary to develop appropriate and effective strategies to minimize the potential impact of space debris on future space missions. It is important to provide for the prevention of further pollution of space by space debris. For instance, a system could be developed in which a satellite could use a certain amount of its remaining fuel to lift itself up to a higher orbit as it approaches the end of its active life. We should also, however, pay due attention to the work carried out by the International Law Association (ILA).

My delegation is happy to see that significant progress has been made on the issue of the definition and delimitation of outer space through the production, at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, of a compromise questionnaire to seek the views of the member States. We are equally glad to observe that two individual working papers on the Principles regarding international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of outer space were merged into one text by the Chairman of the relevant Working Group, also during the last session of the Legal Subcommittee. We believe that this positive step will contribute to further progress on this issue.

Useful ideas were put forward this morning by our Austrian colleague on the prospect of convening a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Also, our Brazilian colleague pointed out, quite rightly, that such a

conference should benefit from the support of all those concerned. The report of the Working Group provides a good basis for further elaboration of the idea. We also appreciate the views of all other delegations on this issue.

My delegation believes that the Committee and its Subcommittees constitute the proper forums for discussion, interaction and exchange of experience and information in order to formulate the necessary guidelines for space activities, which have great significance for humankind. We are prepared to join in efforts to render the work of the Committee more effective and efficient, through the Working Group to convene during the present session.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that the Turkish authorities sincerely desire to cooperate, at the regional and international levels, with all who are interested.

Mr. Lessard (Canada): I should like, Sir, on behalf of my delegation, to express our pleasure at seeing you chair this Committee once again, and also to thank you for this opportunity to summarize recent developments in Canada's space activities, to highlight a few key events scheduled for 1995 and beyond, and to emphasize once again Canada's commitment to peaceful international cooperation in space.

I should like to start by echoing the sentiments of other delegations in welcoming the new members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). I am certain that their contribution will become important as the Committee addresses the issues on its agenda, now and in future.

The last few years have witnessed the convergence of a number of factors that have increased both the possibility of, and necessity for, ever greater international cooperation in the study and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. These include the end of the bipolar world, the growing global awareness of the application of space technologies for natural resource management, environmental protection and disaster prevention, the growing fiscal restraint in many regions of the world, and the exponential growth of the so-called information technologies. There is a growing recognition that space technologies and applications are vital in addressing problems affecting the common welfare of humanity. But there is also a practical recognition that nations must cooperate in space matters in order to share the financial costs of space activity and to reap the full benefits of that which is done on the frontiers of human knowledge.

As we head towards the twenty-first century, we foresee many challenges to global and regional security, socioeconomic progress and the health of our environment. Surely, our main collective task, and a prime mandate of this Committee, is to ensure that space science, technologies and systems play a useful role in meeting those challenges, for the benefit of all humankind. As mentioned by the Secretary-General in his exposé on international cooperation in space in the post-cold-war era, this will require the strengthening of existing mechanisms of cooperation and the possible creation of new mechanisms. In this fast-changing environment, new ideas, and new ways of accomplishing objectives, will need to be examined.

I should like to briefly highlight some of the most significant events and achievements in Canada's space programme this past year.

The Canadian Space Agency and other Canadian Governmental departments and agencies involved in space are continuing efforts to implement the new Canadian Space Programme, which was announced in this Committee in June 1994. In all sectors, work is ongoing to define and implement programmes in priority areas for Canada in human space flight, Earth observation, satellite communications, space science and space technology development. In particular, progress is being made in further defining such new initiatives as the International Mobile and the Advanced Satellite Communications programmes, for the development of strategic technologies for international mobile communications and new multimedia applications respectively, and also the Canadian Small Scientific Satellite Programme, which will see the launch of two Canadian small satellites for scientific applications in the next 10 years.

The Canadian Space Agency, in collaboration with the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales of France, has recently made important discoveries with the Wind Imaging Interferometer (WINDII). Data from this instrument, flown in 1991 on board a United States satellite, shows that planetary scale disturbances in the upper atmospheric weather correspond to one or two waves around the globe. These disturbances resemble weather patterns, but clearly demonstrate that the upper atmosphere responds to processes arising at the Earth's surface. WINDII also discovered a gap in atomic oxygen at the equator, thought to be due to the action of atmospheric tides and associated winds.

Canadian scientists participated with scientists from the European Space Agency (ESA), the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Japan, France and Germany in the second International Microgravity Laboratory (IML-2) mission launched last July. Some 80 studies were conducted on the effects microgravity produces on astronauts, including back pain, changes in nerve conduction, and changes to the cardiovascular system.

Canada also continued its very fruitful cooperation with the European Space Agency in several areas. Initiated in the early 1970s, this collaboration was formalized in 1979 with the signing of an agreement on close cooperation, and has resulted in substantial benefits. In the past few months, Canada has confirmed its participation in new programmes, particularly in the area of satellite communications. Canada is also gratified by the successful launch on 21 April 1995 of the second European Remote Sensing Satellite, a programme in which Canada participated. We look forward to many years of successful operations from this spacecraft.

And, finally, work is continuing on the development of the Mobile Servicing System, Canada's contribution to the largest international cooperative science and technology project in history, the International Space Station Alpha. The Mobile Servicing System is a sophisticated robotics instrument that will play a dominant role in the assembly, maintenance and operation of the Space Station, in which Canada is a partner with the United States, participating European States, Japan, and now Russia. Canada looks forward to the upcoming completion of the discussions necessary in particular to bring Russia formally into the partnership, and also to the confirmation this autumn by the European partner of its contribution to the project.

I would also like to mention briefly some of the key events in Canada's space programme for the coming year. Perhaps the most significant event of 1995 will be the launch of RADARSAT I, Canada's first Earth observation satellite, on 20 September. RADARSAT I will use synthetic aperture radar (SAR) technology to observe the Earth, even in darkness and through clouds, providing data essential to a variety of applications for resource management and environmental monitoring, such as ice observations, crop predictions, and the monitoring of deforestation and desertification. Radarsat International, the private Canadian company entrusted with the mandate of commercializing this data world wide, will embark soon after the launch on a tour of several cities in all regions, to demonstrate the applications of this data to potential users. This will build on the very successful SAREX and Globesar airborne observation campaigns undertaken in several regions of the world. We have also started planning for the development of the second RADARSAT satellite for launch around the year 2000, and discussions will continue with the Canadian private sector on the formation of a consortium which will lead this effort and supplement available federal funding.

Canada will also launch this year or early next year a spacecraft called MSAT, an advanced communications satellite that will provide Canadians, especially in rural areas, with the same communications services as those enjoyed in metropolitan centres. This project is a cooperative venture involving Canadian and United States private sector partners and will provide two-way voice, data transmission, facsimile and dispatch radio services to users, whether on land, at sea or in the air.

I would now like to note the activities of three of Canada's astronauts this year. Canada's Dave Williams has recently been selected by NASA as part of the 1994 class of mission specialist trainees. Chris Hadfield will take part in the Shuttle mission STS-74 that will dock with Russia's MIR station in late 1995 and will operate the Canadian robotic arm in order to put into place the docking adaptor that will allow repeated Shuttle missions to MIR. Mr. Hadfield will be the first Canadian in a Russian spacecraft. And Dr. Bob Thirsk was recently selected as a payload specialist for Space Shuttle flight STS-78 following a rigorous international selection process involving astronauts from several countries. STS-78 will be a life and microgravity sciences Spacelab mission. Finally, Canada looks forward to welcoming all members and affiliates of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) to the plenary session scheduled for 11 to 13 October 1995 at the site of the Canadian Space Agency in St. Hubert. Canada assumes the Chair of CEOS in 1995, following the very successful German chairmanship last year.

International cooperation has always been the mainstay of Canadian activity in space, and we expect that such cooperation will increase. Indeed, we anticipate that several new opportunities for enhanced collaboration with foreign industrial and governmental partners will emerge in the implementation of the new Canadian space programme, particularly in the fields of space science, space technology development, Earth observation, and space and ground infrastructure. We welcome any suggestions as to how cooperation in space activities can be enhanced for the common benefit.

Canada intends to make more specific statements on the issues raised in the reports of the two Subcommittees. I would, however, like at this time to express my delegation's satisfaction at the progress made at the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee towards the development of a specific, deliberate, multi-year work plan on the phenomenon of space debris. Like other delegations, we believe that space debris poses a serious threat to the continued secure and cost-effective conduct of space activities, and requires the immediate consideration and implementation of practical measures to alleviate the problem.

On the issue of the working methods of the Committee and its Subcommittees, my delegation can only welcome the recent discussions aimed at further implementing the principle of flexibility for the conduct of meetings. We reiterate our belief that, despite — or perhaps because of — its reliance on compromise, the principle of consensus is vital to the continued successful pursuit of deliberations and should remain a cornerstone. I would also like to express our conviction that the environment of space activities has undergone and is still undergoing significant changes. New trends are emerging, and new challenges are confronting us. My delegation would therefore support the continued effort to examine the agenda of the Committee and its Subcommittees, but in particular that of the Legal Subcommittee, so that productive consideration of relevant issues can be promoted.

Once again, my delegation would like to emphasize the very important contribution of this Committee, its two Subcommittees, and the Director and staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs in leading international consideration of these and other important issues. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my delegation's continued cooperation.

The Chairman: I now have the honour and pleasure of calling on Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, who would like to make a statement, which proves the interest he takes in our Committee's work.

Mr. Giacomelli (Director-General, United Nations Office at Vienna): As Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), of which the Office for Outer Space Affairs is an integral part, I find it indeed a great pleasure to welcome you all to Vienna for this, the thirty-eighth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the second session to be held here at the Vienna International Centre.

I am pleased to note that the Office for Outer Space Affairs is fully settled in its new home and that it has been fully integrated into the operations of the UNOV. The Office works closely with other Vienna-based units, particularly the joint United Nations/United Nations Industrial Development Organization Conference Services Division, which enables it to provide such excellent substantive support to this Committee and its two Subcommittees. The relocation of the Office has also resulted in enhanced cooperation with the space authorities of the host country and with other Europe-based organizations, particularly the European Space Agency.

The work of this Committee and its two Subcommittees is extremely important to the entire United Nations Organization, and it will likely become even more so in the future as space technologies and applications are further developed. The fact that space technology has become a part of our everyday lives in the span of just a few short years merely serves to cement in my mind the conviction that it will become indispensable as we approach the twenty-first century.

Of course, the primary challenge to this Committee, and indeed to the entire United Nations system, is to see that all countries share equally in the benefits of space technologies. It is important that space technology not become yet another tool by which the gap between the developed and developing countries is widened. The Committee must also address other challenges, such as the need to minimize the potentially adverse impact of space activities, such as the generation of space debris and the possible contamination of the space and Earth environments from space objects with nuclear-power sources. The Committee must also face the potentially contradictory desires of countries for increased bilateral cooperation in space activities with the increased desire for multilateral cooperation, particularly through the United Nations. This is no small task, but, judging by the significant past achievements of this Committee, particularly with regard to the development of international space law, I am confident that it will be successful in this endeavour.

In order to ensure the continued peaceful exploration and utilization of outer space, member States will need the full support of the United Nations and I would like, at this point, to reiterate the Organization's commitment to this goal. The Secretary-General's major policy statement on space activities, the report entitled "International cooperation in space activities for

enhancing security in the post-cold war era", noted that all forms of security — political, economic and environmental — are interrelated. Indeed, in other recent policy statements, such as "An Agenda for Peace" and "An Agenda for Development", the Secretary-General has noted the connection between security and development and stressed that the Organization's activities in one area must be explicitly linked to its efforts in the other. In essence, promoting development will contribute to the promotion of international peace and security.

The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the first in the ongoing continuum of global conferences to focus on economic, social and development issues, was one of the first international forums specifically to note the important role that space technology can play in promoting the sustainable development of the Earth's natural resources. Indeed, the landmark Agenda 21 programme of action called for improved coordination and cooperation in the use of space technology, particularly remote sensing, for implementing the recommendations of the Conference. Of course, this is something that this Committee has been advocating and which member States have been actively pursuing for many years.

In fact, I like to think often of one of the better-known contemporary Italian sculptors, Pomodoro. I do not know if many here are familiar with his work. One of the patterns that seem to have obsessed him is a globe — the Earth, in fact — carved cruelly by the sometimes unwise eagerness of human beings. What he missed is what we are doing and building, not on the crust of our globe but in what is so closely related to it: outer space. I think he should take inspiration from this new dimension.

This leads me to mention what I view as the greatest challenge facing this Committee: the need to lead the effort more fully to integrate space technologies into the work of the Organization. In this regard, I would like to note that, since its relocation to Vienna in October 1993, the Office for Outer Space Affairs has made every effort to assist the other United Nations divisions that are located here to utilize space technologies in their work programmes.

Two examples immediately come to mind. First and foremost, in my view, are the ongoing discussions between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the Office for Outer Space Affairs on how remote sensing can be utilized by Member States and regional organizations in their fight against the cultivation of illegal drugs. It is hoped that these discussions will yield a substantive programme in the near future.

As many members are aware, the United Nations attaches great importance to international efforts to stem the production and use of illegal drugs. The link between the international drug trade and other forms of transnational criminal activity was a focus of recent United Nations conferences and will continue to be a priority area of the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Crime Branch, both of which are based in Vienna.

As Executive-Director of the UNDCP, I have a deep personal interest in how remote sensing can be used in the fight against this global scourge. I therefore view the ongoing discussions between the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Drug Control Programme as an example of the multiplier effect that can be gained by combining the expertise available among the varied United Nations units and look forward to other developments of this kind.

Another example of how space technology and expertise are being integrated into the operations of the Organization was the development by the Office for Outer Space Affairs of a plan to use a combination of satellite and computer-based telecommunications systems for the electronic transmission of documents, which facilitated the remote translation and transmission of documents for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held recently in Cairo. This marked the first time ever in the Organization's history that documents were edited and translated away from the site of a conference on an operational basis, and the success of the project, due in large part to the efforts of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the willingness of the Office of Conference and Support Services to undertake this experiment, makes it likely that such "tele-conferencing" will become a regular feature of future United Nations conferences. It should be noted, of course, that significant cost savings accrued to the Organization and the host country because fewer conference servicing staff were required to make the trip from Vienna to Cairo.

Clearly, space technology could play a valuable role in many other United Nations programmes and projects, particularly those related to implementation of the

recommendations contained in "An Agenda for Peace" and "An Agenda for Development" and those of the global conferences.

It should be noted, of course, that space technology is already utilized by many parts of the Organization and many of the specialized agencies in fulfilling their mandates. In this regard, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, as host and organizer of the annual Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, plays an important role in coordinating all the space-related activities of the Organization and ensuring that there is no unnecessary duplication of effort.

Nevertheless, it is important that more be done to ensure a firm link between the work of the Committee and that of the rest of the United Nations. A review of this issue will be conducted in the context of the formulation of the medium-term plan for 1998-2001, and it is important that the Committee support and provide input to this process. I assure the Committee that all of the Offices that fall under the umbrella of the United Nations Office at Vienna will be undertaking similar reviews in the coming months to ensure that all activities conducted here are consistent with the overall direction and policy goals laid out by the Secretary-General and the General Assembly. It is especially important for the Committee to consider ways to establish a more definitive link between the activities organized under the Programme on Space Applications and the goals outlined by the Secretary-General and the global conferences.

By firmly aligning all elements of the Committee's work with the overall goals of the Organization, this body will greatly facilitate the integration of space technology into all relevant parts of the work of the United Nations and in doing so will be fulfilling its mandate to serve as the focal point for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

With regard to this Committee, I am aware of its consideration of the possibility of convening a Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). In the context of the discussions already held on this matter, I understand that the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have addressed some of the issues I have raised, particularly the need to ensure consistency and to give focus to all international space activities, especially those conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. I am sure that as the Committee progresses further in the preparations for a UNISPACE III it will continue to give its attention to these important matters.

As members of the Committee know, the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations will be marked by many special events. Among these, however, none will be more exceptional than the planned tele-conference between the Secretary-General and the astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the second joint Space Shuttle-Mir space station mission, which will take place in October this year. This event will give us an opportunity to reflect on the Organization's achievements in the field of space and to contemplate its future role in this important area.

Again I thank the Committee for giving me the opportunity to address it. I wish all members a pleasant stay in Vienna and a successful and productive session. I shall, of course, follow the Committee's deliberations with interest, and I look forward to welcoming all members again at future sessions.

The Chairman: I thank Mr. Giacomelli, first, for his kindness in addressing the Committee and his interest in our work; secondly, for his inspiring ideas concerning the environment and the applied technology of remote sensing for the drugs programme, which is a very important factor; and, last but not least, for what he has said about tele-conferences. In this context, I believe that Vienna was a pioneer in international conference technology.

I hope that we can establish a tradition and that the Director-General of the Vienna Office will address the Committee when it meets next year.

As Mr. Giacomelli is under pressure of time it was necessary that he address the Committee before the representative of Argentina, to whom I apologize.

Mr. Varotto (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Since this is the first time the Argentine delegation has spoken at this session, we should like to express our satisfaction at seeing you, Mr. Chairman, once again presiding over the Committee. We also wish to express our gratitude to the Office for Outer Space Affairs for the documents prepared for the session.

As you, Mr. Chairman, correctly said in your introductory statement, in the year that has passed since the last session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Affairs, various events in the area of space

activities have warranted attention and presented new challenges to the Committee. These events demonstrate once again the evolutionary and changing nature of space activities, which requires the Committee to take a flexible and dynamic approach in its work. Our delegation will take an active part in discussions on the procedures and methods of work of the Committee and its two Subcommittees, with a view to adapting them to those necessities.

These notions are also valid for national space programmes, because those programmes, too, constantly have to face new and changing circumstances. Concepts such as active cooperation, joint projects and the interdependence of technical, political and economic elements define the parameters of current international relations in the field of space. For this reason, the Argentine Republic has adapted its structure and legislation in the field of space to fit these realities. This is reflected in the eminently civilian nature of its space programme and of its corresponding legal and political structure.

This new approach gives priority to a better interrelationship between our national interests, our available human and material resources, and our search for more extensive interaction with other countries.

For that purpose, in 1991 the Government and the Congress of our nation took the decision to organize space activities by setting up the Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales (CONAE), which reports to the highest level of the Executive branch. Absolutely civilian in nature, it is intended for exclusively peaceful uses of outer space. In conformity with our existing national legislation, CONAE prepared the National Space Plan for the period 1995 to 2006, which the Government adopted in November 1994, while declaring space activities a national priority in the sphere of science and technology. The National Space Plan, which is to be reviewed every two years, will be in force for 11 years, during which it will keep its priority status.

Let me comment on some features of Argentina's National Space Plan. Various factors, both central and tangential, were considered in drafting the Plan, including, first, the nature of our country; because of its size, its principal agricultural and mining activities, its population distribution, its vulnerability to natural disasters, its level of scientific, technological and economic development and its participation in a number of international agreements, Argentina can be called a space country. This compels Argentina to use space science and technology.

The second factor was the globalization of technology, which is both cause and effect of what is today called the globalization of the economy. Moreover, there was broad consensus in the political, scientific, technological and industrial sectors that Argentina should be an active user of space science and technology.

The third factor was the view that it was in our country's best interests to create what we have come to call complete cycles of space information and that in order to create such cycles of information Argentina not only had to use what was internationally available in the context of the globalization of technology, but also had to participate actively in the production of certain elements of the cycle if it was to be complete.

Finally, the main resource needed for space activities — trained personnel — could be assured both through currently available means and through well-conceived plans for training activities. The existence of an appropriate cultural environment in which those who provide scientific knowledge, those who create technology and those who produce goods and provide services could work in concert would ensure that the scientific and technological sector could meet the needs of the manufacturing and space sectors, and vice versa, so long as we chose correctly the complete cycle of information to be generated at an economically appropriate time. We only needed to take the actions that would make the country aware of this.

These and other factors went into the preparation of our National Space Plan, which is intended as an investment project in all its stages, in scientific aspects and applications aspects, and we have been able to make reasonable predictions of the country's return on its investments in the space field.

Our Space Plan's identification of Argentina's interest in generating complete cycles of space information implies the need for its implementation to facilitate international cooperation in the form of partnerships. Such cooperation by Argentina was usual even before the adoption of the National Space Plan. One of the best examples of this is the scientific applications satellite SAC-B, to be launched within a few months. This project, typical of international cooperation, involved Argentina's CONAE, the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Italian Space Agency and Brazil's Institute of Space Research (INPE).

Argentina's National Space Plan calls for a series of satellite missions divided into two series of light satellites: the SAC series, which will have both scientific and applications aspects, with emphasis on remote sensing in the visible-light range, and the SAOCOM series, essentially applications-oriented, with emphasis on the microwave range. In the SAC series, the SAC-C satellite is already fully functional; this, too, is a cooperative project in which the SAC-B partners and a country whose participation is under consideration are joined by the Danish Meteorological Institute, which will provide a magnetometer with a resolution similar to that used in the Oersted project. The launch of SAC-C is planned for 1998.

On the terrestrial side, the National Space Plan proposes the construction and operation of two kinds of receiving stations. The first would be a general-purpose station for all satellites from which Argentina is interested in obtaining information, principally in the microwave and visible bands. This station will require a high signal-to-noise ratio in its receiving system and high gain in the relevant antenna. Through additional improvements, these features will make it possible for this station to be used also as a high-quality radioastronomy station; it will thus be a multi-purpose station.

The second class will consist of low-cost, compact receiving stations that will enable users to obtain some of the information available from satellites for their own immediate use. The use of these stations in our national territory will be widely promoted by our organization.

As to personnel training, the National Space Plan envisages continued support for the activities of the country's various university centres. It also establishes the Mario Gulich Institute for Higher Space Studies, which we hope will play a significant role in training highly specialized professionals. The Institute will operate at the Falda del Carmen installations as a result of the decision of the Argentine Government to cancel completely the Condor project. Two aspects of that facility are undergoing conversion: first, the actual production plant is being converted for the use of its facilities by technological enterprises; and, secondly, Argentina's space activities will be concentrated in Falda del Carmen.

For the organization and operation of the Mario Gulich Institute, we are counting on international academic cooperation. The Institute will, of course, be open to students from other countries, in the tradition of our country's other centres of excellence in higher education, such as the Instituto Balseiro, which has served Argentina and Latin America so well in the training of nuclear physicists and engineers.

In this statement we wanted to give a general overview of Argentina's space activities and their place in relation to the international community. Later in the session my delegation will be addressing the Committee on specific items of the agenda.

Mr. Dziovbenko (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian):* Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction at seeing you once again presiding over the Committee at its thirty-eighth session. We should also like to congratulate the representative of Romania on his election as Vice-Chairman. We are sure that he will make a significant contribution to the effectiveness of our work. Allow me also to welcome the other officers of the Committee and the representatives of the Secretariat, whose excellent work always ensures the successful conduct and conclusion of our work.

The results of the activity of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in serving the interests of mankind are well known. In our view, they basically respond to the tasks which are posed by life itself. At the same time, there have recently been changes in the criteria for finding the rationality and effectiveness of the work and, correspondingly, to some extent, a need for renewal.

In this year of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, bearing in mind the new conditions and circumstances which have emerged in the world, including reductions in the levels of suspicion in the post-confrontational era, we think it would make good sense if we were all to concentrate our attention on ways and means of renewing the work of the Committee and of seeking agreement in improving the effectiveness of its work. Of course, in our view, we should not reject the fully justified principles of our work — in particular, the principle of deciding questions on the basis of consensus. We shall speak in detail on this subject on agenda items 5 and 6 and other items.

With regard to the holding of a conference, at this stage we would simply note that we could support this suggestion but on condition that the conference is properly prepared and that its agenda and format is balanced in the interests of all. We will speak in greater detail on this under the corresponding agenda item.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation listened with great interest yesterday to your excellent introductory statement, which set out the basic results of world space activity over the last year and gave an analysis of work which had been carried out, trends noted and ways of developing international space activities and readiness, under the auspices of the United Nations, to solve problems that are vitally important to mankind in this sphere. You cited a number of specific examples of cooperation in space, including a number of Russian programmes. However, following the established tradition, we should like to give a little more detail about the status of trends and plans for the further development of space activities in Russia.

Russia is able to systematically carry out each year 40 or 50 launches of launch vehicles and to maintain in space a stable orbiting group, which includes some 170 space craft linked into 30 types of space systems and complexes. Using these, various types of information are transmitted to more than 20 Russian federal departments and to hundreds of organizations in our country. Over just five months of this year, there have already been more than 10 launches of launch vehicles, and 13 space craft have been put into orbit for different purposes. They include the Spectre Module, with international scientific apparatus on board. This was the fourth specialized module weighing some 20 tons, of the eighteenth major expedition of the Mir Space Station, which has been in operation since 1986. The mass of the entire configuration of the Mir Space Station is now at a record level now - around 130 tons.

In your report, Mr. Chairman, you spoke in some detail about manned space flights. Hence, my task is somewhat alleviated; I can simply mention that the United States astronaut, Norman Tagart, working on board the Mir Space Station has already several times broken the record set by his compatriots for length of time spent in orbit. The longest flight for astronauts from other countries was the expedition to the Mir Space Station by a representative of the European Space Agency, Ulf Merbold, last year. As we have already stated, in September we plan to have a flight by yet another representative of the European Space Agency for 135 days.

At the end of June we plan to carry out the first docking of the Shuttle with the Mir Space Station. I should like to recall that this joint task is one element in major preparatory work currently being carried out to implement the programme to establish and operate an international space station. With full participation by Russia we very much hope that there will be rapid agreement with all partners on the specific parameters of interaction on this project with the participation of all current partners and Russia and that this will result in a high quality level of international cooperation in implementing specific and very significant international projects.

With participation by foreign countries in the context of international cooperation, we are now conducting work on planetary exploration — Mars '96, Spectre and others; on astrophysics, space biology and medicine — Bian and Mir; on space meteorology — Meteor 3 and Electro; on environmental monitoring — Almaz and Mir; on rescue systems — Kospas-Sarsat; and a whole set of other areas.

There is also a growing percentage of contract work being jointly carried out by Russia and its partners, including, among a large number of projects, the use of Russian motor assemblies for American launch vehicles; the sale of the Russian Gorizont craft to the firm Ramsat; the use of liquid-fuel rocket motors on Ariane 5; the launch in 1994 of the French biological capsule Ibis; and the creation, together with Germany, of a satellite communications system. Another new project that we find interesting is the testing of a Japanese model of a reusable spacecraft in a unique aerodynamic tunnel in Russia.

We note with satisfaction that our long-standing cooperation with India in space activities has gained new momentum following the signing of an Inter-Governmental Agreement and an inter-agency agreement between the Russian space agency and the Indian Space Research Organization. There are also very promising prospects for cooperation between Russia and Brazil. We also hope to begin, in the relatively near future, joint work with other Latin American countries as well as States in Africa and Asia, both on scientific and applied programmes. Such mutual interest has already been demonstrated.

The radical economic reforms in Russia, in whose territory 85 per cent of the industrial potential of the former Soviet Union is concentrated, have produced a new and important stage in the development of our space activities. For our country's space sector, a period has begun that involves more careful evaluation and the difficult search for alternative solutions. There is now an active stimulus for the formation of new values. Russia is seeking, and is finding, ways of working together with other States in the interests of the international community, to set out on new space courses and to effectively put our unique aerospace potential into action.

I turn now to a subject of very great interest both to Russia and to the rest of the world. Our gateway into space continues to be the Baikonur launch site. We have signed and ratified an agreement between Russia and Kazakstan on basic principles and conditions governing utilization of that launch site and an agreement for its lease. In addition, work is being done towards the broader use of the Plesetsk launch site.

We also have ready a new launching pad for Zenit launch vehicles, and in 1997 we plan to carry out the first launch of the new Rus rocket launcher. We are also working now on the Far East cosmodrome, which is known as Cvobodny. In 1996, we should see the launch of the conversion technology launch vehicle Rokot, which has been constructed on the basis of an intercontinental ballistic missile.

Russia has also completed organizational reforms for national space activities. I should like very briefly to mention that in the State Duma, the federal assembly of the Russian Federation -- our Parliament — we have set up a subcommittee on space, and we are also establishing the corresponding coordinating and managing structures, which report to the President of the Russian Federation.

We will also be reshaping the management structures of the Government. In 1995, we anticipate the further development of legislation in the Russian Federation in terms of space activities and the peaceful uses of outer space, principally through refining, and to some extent reviewing, Russia's laws on space activities. We are looking at laws that apply to rockets and space in general; to commercial space activities; and to interaction with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with other foreign States and international organizations in carrying out our space activities.

Russian space activities now have something to show to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. International space cooperation has an increasingly high priority in our space activities. Russia is prepared to extend the area and the scale of such cooperation under the coordinating and guiding rule of the United Nations.

In conclusion, I should like also to say that I shall speak more specifically and in more detail on agenda items relating to specific problems that will be discussed here and that have been raised by our delegation.

Mr. Lemos Simmonds (Colombia) (*interpretation from Spanish*): My delegation is pleased to see you, Sir, once again conducting the discussions of this Committee with your customary rigour and professionalism. We hope that this session will enable us to make progress in the study of each of the items on the agenda and that our conclusions will reflect our desire to continue to move forward and work together to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

My delegation notes with pleasure that the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna is present in the Committee, albeit very briefly, and takes note of his very important comments. My delegation particularly shares his interest in and emphasis on the use of space technology to combat the production, distribution and consumption of illicit drugs, a phenomenon whose virulent effects on the world are increasing and against which we need to mobilize all the resources available to the States and organizations that make up the United Nations.

The year 1995 has been an important one for the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. First and foremost, we have begun our work with new Member States, which clearly reflects our desire to adapt to changes in the international arena and will also enrich future discussions on all the subjects before us.

Before commenting on some of the major items discussed during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, I should like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to Professor John Carver of Australia, who will be leaving us after his many years of very enthusiastic and dedicated leadership of the discussions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. I wish him all the best in his future activities.

Colombia is confident that if we follow and respect the tradition of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) of taking decisions by consensus, we will be able to choose the most qualified candidate to continue Professor Carver's important work. My delegation would be very pleased if, at the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, a candidate from the Group of 77 were elected to that post, as this would achieve a balance of power at the Committee's management level.

My delegation would like to emphasize, as other States have done, the importance it attaches to the study of the item on space debris, and would like also to express its satisfaction at the inclusion of such an

important subject on the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its last session. We would consider it appropriate for the Legal Subcommittee to undertake in some way the study of this item.

Almost 13 years have passed since the second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) was held, and during that time much progress has been made in science and space technology, as well as in international affairs. Colombia considers it necessary to hold a third UNISPACE conference to evaluate progress already made and set out guidelines for the future work of all bodies and institutions committed to the preservation of peace in outer space.

My delegation believes, nevertheless, that in order to guarantee the success of that meeting, an agenda of work that reflects the objectives we hope to attain must be defined jointly, so that we can then proceed to decide on such matters as the site and date of the conference.

The Colombian delegation is satisfied to see the progress made at the last session of the Legal Subcommittee on the subject of the benefits of outer space. As a sponsor of the working paper on Principles regarding International Cooperation in the Exploration and Utilization of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, I should like to thank Mr. Edgard Telles Ribeiro of Brazil for his expert presentation of the document on behalf of its sponsors at the last meeting.

I would also like to express appreciation for the work of Mr. Raimundo González of Chile in coordinating the efforts to present for our consideration a document that takes into account the positions of the developed and developing countries and brings us closer to a joint document.

I would now like to refer briefly to the document entitled "Geostationary satellite orbit", which was submitted by my delegation in 1993. I would first like to note gratefully the excellent work of Mr. Eugenio María Curia of Argentina, who led the Working Group on the study of this agenda item, and the progress made during the last session of the Legal Subcommittee.

We believe that all the comments made on this issue contributed significantly to the enrichment of our understanding of this important area of study. Consequently, my delegation now has a more pragmatic and realistic view, which it can use to develop progressively the legislation contained, essentially, in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) treaties. As we have stated before, we are prepared to present a revised version of the document during the next session of the Legal Subcommittee, in 1996. We shall carry out all the necessary consultations towards this end, principally with the ITU.

To conclude, I should like to wish you, Mr. Chairman, much success in conducting our discussions during this session of the Committee and to express the Colombian delegation's willingness to work with you and take an active part in the tasks we have before us.

Mr. Gavrilenko (Ukraine) (*interpretation from Russian*): I would first like to thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to speak. It is my conviction that under your guidance the thirty-eighth session of the Committee will be able successfully to address the important questions before it. This will effectively demonstrate the good work that is taking place within the United Nations Organization, which is especially significant given the fact that the Organization is now 50 years old.

The end of the confrontation of two world systems which has come about in an unprecedentedly brief period of time has made possible the emergence of new initiatives in which various States work together globally in all sorts of sectors. This must have an impact on one of the most highly developed and technically sophisticated sectors of the world economy: the space sector. The heightening of international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space follows naturally from this process. The activity of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has certainly contributed to this as well. To illustrate this, we could refer to many instances of fruitful cooperation between States in the space sector; indeed, Mr. Chairman, you mentioned them in your introductory statement.

We therefore confirm once again that Ukraine is in favour of further international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and particularly of the work of this Committee and its Subcommittees in implementing the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of the activities of the Committee's members.

A prime example of progress in international cooperation in the development of outer space technology is the series of agreements struck during President Clinton's recent visit to Kiev. Among them was an agreement on the inclusion of a Ukrainian cosmonaut in

the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) manned flight scheduled for 1997. In addition, Ukraine and the United States began negotiations on an agreement to allow Ukraine to enter the American space sector commercial services market.

However, there remains one very complex and important problem for the Committee to address: the monitoring and relief of natural disasters. The United Nations is giving this problem due attention. For example, there was a United Nations conference in Yokohama in 1994 on natural disaster relief. However, a recent series of severe earthquakes -- in Spitak, San Francisco, Neftegorsk and elsewhere — remind mankind of the urgent need to develop efficient methods of forecasting earthquakes.

One such method is remote sensing, which analyses the deep structure of the earth in order to predict earthquakes and prevent their fatal consequences. Here, the Ukraine would like to propose our capabilities for scientific cooperation in this regard.

We would also like to highlight the importance of the timely and open presentation of remote sensing data by all States to all other States, especially of data that is already processed as well as the importance of free access to NETSAT data.

The delegation of Ukraine is in favour of holding UNISPACE 3 very soon. We believe that such a conference would be a catalyst for the development of space sector technology and its further broad application in various regions of the world. It is therefore important to have as many members of the United Nations as possible participate in such a forum, especially those States which are not members of this Committee.

Mr. Mazilu (Romania), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

Mr. El Ghernovgui (Morocco) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The Moroccan delegation is pleased to see Mr. Hohenfellner presiding over our work at this session. We are certain that his experience will allow us to achieve success.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Secretariat, and Mr. Jasentuliyana at their head, for the excellent work done in preparation for this meeting.

The field of the peaceful uses of outer space is rapidly advancing and developing, and space technologies are continually evolving. This contributes to the expansion of the space technology sector, with positive effects on many activities in this field. In this respect, the international community has entered a new stage of development because new interests are emerging at the global level in response to these new prospects. It is essential that we make scientific and technical progress in the peaceful uses of outer space while emphasizing transparency and clarity.

As for information on the peaceful uses of outer space and the way in which it can be accessed and exploited to the full in the best possible conditions, this is a matter of major importance to the development of present and future technologies. Studies have shown that the development, progress and prosperity of States, especially the developing and least developed States, are closely linked to the exploitation of these highly advanced technologies.

For some time now the Kingdom of Morocco has been developing remote-sensing technologies. We have established various remote-sensing projects for geographical data in response to our needs for data on natural resources, environmental monitoring, soil preparation projects and so on. These are all integrated into our national development programmes.

Morocco has been interested in the uses of outer space for some time, and has been trying to assimilate space technologies, whose introduction to the developing countries requires a dynamic approach at the national and international levels. In this general framework, Morocco has expressed its desire to participate in COPINE projects specializing in the collection of data, in order to ensure the appropriate exchange of data and information between African States for purposes of international cooperation. This would help to consolidate cooperation between African and European States. In this respect, the Kingdom of Morocco has a very strong infrastructure and good human and institutional resources that will no doubt contribute to the implementation of these projects in Morocco.

Furthermore, Morocco has repeatedly officially declared its interest in hosting a regional centre for space science and technology in Africa. The mission sent to study Morocco's national capabilities in this respect gave

high marks to its human and institutional resources which would enable it to host such a centre.

From 16 to 18 October 1995 Morocco will host the MARISY 95 encounter, which will focus on remote sensing for environmental monitoring purposes. The meeting, organized by the Moroccan Royal Centre for Spaceborne Remote Sensing in collaboration with regional and international organizations, will bring together experts in this field from Africa and the Middle East.

Activities in the field of the peaceful uses of outer space are a double-edged sword, because they not only have positive economic, social and scientific spin-offs, but also entail great dangers that must be kept in mind. This leads us to note that it is necessary to elaborate criteria for focusing on scientific and technical developments for the benefit of all States. Outer space can be utilized peacefully only on the basis of effective international cooperation. Experience shows that scientific and technical progress in the socio-economic and cultural fields can take place only through the consolidation of cooperation. Such cooperation cannot come about through coercion; it must exist only to ensure better standards of living and mutual international understanding. It must seek a common denominator between divergent points of view and interests in order to bring States together, regardless of their levels of technological development. This cooperation must be aimed at utilizing outer space for peaceful purposes.

We need to achieve this sort of cooperation in order to find alternative ways of approaching projects to suit various countries. We should also take into account ways of compensating those countries which do not have the ways and means to tap into the peaceful uses of outer space. The developed countries with advanced technical expertise which exploit this sector of course benefit from such technologies. We must do our utmost to reconcile national and other interests in order to ensure the participation of our countries in outer space developments and to facilitate international cooperation.

With regard to trade and the commercial use of data obtained by remote sensing, we believe that the cost of spin-off information should be reduced to ensure that it is within the means of developing and least developed countries. This would enable all States to benefit from the use of such new technologies.

The study of the problems of space debris and how to deal with them is of particular importance. We must all adopt strategies to control such phenomena and guarantee provision of the resources needed to alleviate the possible negative effects of space debris. With regard to space missions, clearing outer space of debris is a difficult question requiring significant material and economic resources. However, the current scientific data demonstrate that continued research and study can produce positive results — possibly solutions to the difficult problems that we still face. The complex nature of such problems requires that they be addressed in a very precise and fine-tuned manner, and as urgently as possible. Proper, practical and timely measures are required to ensure that some sectors of outer space do not become impenetrable in the near future and to guarantee proper security in those sectors.

The convening of a Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) is of particular importance for the developing countries, as it would enable countries that have recently become connected with the Committee to participate in the examination of various issues concerning international cooperation in outer space. Furthermore, it would allow for the emergence of a global view and new possibilities to consolidate inter-State cooperation following the cold war. This would allow clear political commitments and would prompt us to examine new approaches with respect to early-warning systems. Thus a UNISPACE III would have particular relevance, especially from the space-technology angle. The desired level of international cooperation should be reflected in the convening of a UNISPACE III involving both the developing and the developed countries. Without such unity of effort we can have no hope of achieving true success in our efforts.

The Kingdom of Morocco is convinced that it is necessary to have consensus on these matters. This is the only way to contribute to ensuring close cooperation between all States.

Mr. Kristiarto (Indonesia): At the outset, I should like to express on behalf of my delegation both pleasure and satisfaction that Mr. Peter Hohenfellner is chairing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirty-eighth session. My delegation has every confidence that under his wise and able guidance this year's session will be run efficiently and will be crowned with success, like the previous ones.

My delegation would like also to express its deep appreciation for the contributions made by both the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

and the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee. Their dedicated efforts will undoubtedly result in greater achievements at this session.

The international community has indeed expressed its concern about the need to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries. At this juncture my delegation would like to reiterate Indonesia's basic position — that outer space should be used entirely for peaceful purposes and to improve the welfare of mankind. In this connection, my delegation would like to reassert that all space activities should be conducted in such a way as to ensure that the national interest of other nations are not harmed.

Let me now touch upon the issues on our agenda.

It is a commonly held view that the peaceful uses of outer space are inseparable from its non-peaceful uses. The promotion and strengthening of peaceful uses therefore require effective measures to prevent an extension of the arms race into outer space.

In view of this, with regard to the agenda item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, I should like to stress the importance of establishing working contact between the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the Conference on Disarmament. Through such contact, exchanges of information between the two bodies could be conducted, for the benefit of all, in conformity with the principles of the peaceful uses of outer space.

With regard to the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the work of its thirty-second session, my delegation would like to focus on several points that we consider deserve appropriate attention. In the field of remote sensing — a view based on experience — that some of the problems faced by developing countries warrant our serious and concerted efforts. I support the Subcommittee's view — this is something that the Chairman mentioned in his opening remark yesterday — that these activities should take into account the need to provide appropriate and non-discriminatory assistance to meet the needs of developing countries.

As regards nuclear power sources, Indonesia shares the concern of some countries over the possible radiation threat arising from the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. In view of this concern, my delegation believes that the use of nuclear power sources in outer space should become the ultimate alternative when the use of other sources is deemed impossible. It is of paramount importance that, in every space programme and activity, attention be given to protecting and sustaining the space environment, particularly those elements that affect the Earth's environment.

Concerning space debris, my delegation expresses its satisfaction that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has deliberated on this matter on a priority basis, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34. In view of the danger of increased space debris, Indonesia welcomes research and studies conducted by several countries, and expects that the Committee can disseminate the results as well as new data on space debris. In this context, my delegation also gives its support to the multi-year plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its last session.

On behalf of my delegation, I should like to reiterate our concerns about the question of the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit (GSO). It is appropriate to mention our concern about the use of the GSO space as a limited natural resource, as well as the near-Earth orbital space, which is becoming increasingly overcrowded with satellite systems. Many member States have recognized the need for rationality and equity in the guiding principles. In this regard, I would like to reiterate our position that a special *sui generis* regime is required to ensure equitable access by all States, particularly the developing countries. We are confident that the Committee will continue discussing ways and means to address these concerns.

I would like also to take this opportunity to reaffirm our support for the convening of the third UNISPACE, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/39. We noted with appreciation the work of the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its last session, and hope that the result of those endeavours will receive serious consideration from the Committee and be a basic starting point towards the realization of the third UNISPACE.

Finally, it is our fervent hope that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will play an increasingly strong role in forging links between developing countries and developed countries, as well as between developing countries themselves. It is also our conviction that this cooperation will create opportunities for access to space science and technology.

The Chairman: I now call on the representative of the International Telecommunication Union.

Mr. Kovacs (International Telecommunication Union): I appreciate this opportunity to address the Committee and to introduce the thirty-fourth report of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on telecommunications and the peaceful uses of outer space. This report has been distributed to Committee members for information in document A/AC.105/608.

In its first part, the report provides information on the activities of the Union in 1994, while in its second part it includes reports by the member countries of the ITU. In my introduction, I would like to underline those parts which may be of importance to the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees. These are the issues concerning the ITU regulations on the use of orbit/spectrum resources, contained in the ITU Constitution and Convention as well as in the International Radio Regulations.

The new Constitution and Convention of the International Telecommunication Union, as modified by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Geneva in 1992, entered into force on 1 July 1994. These instruments of the ITU contain the regulatory bases for the allocation of orbit/spectrum resources and their distribution among member countries, the user community. One of the main principles in this regard is laid down in No. 196 of Article 44 of the ITU Constitution, which stipulates:

> "In using frequency bands for radio services, Members shall bear in mind that radio frequencies and the geostationary-satellite orbit are limited natural resources and that they must be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provisions of the Radio Regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to both, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries." (cited p.4, *A/AC.105/608*)

As indicated in this provision, further detailed regulations and procedures governing orbit/spectrum use are contained in the International Radio Regulations, a binding international treaty. The legal regime embodied in the Radio Regulations, which includes the rights and obligations of countries and procedures applicable to all radiocommunication services, has been established by major ITU world radiocommunication conferences.

The present ITU legal regime for the international management of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary orbit stands on four pillars: first, the Table of Frequency Allocations and other related provisions of the Radio Regulations; secondly, the coordination procedures for obtaining the agreement of other administrations concerning frequency and orbit usage; thirdly, the procedures associated with world frequency and orbital position plans; and, fourthly, the notification, publication and recording of frequency assignments in the Master International Register. The final stage for frequency assignments, when they are recorded in the Master Register, is seen as affording international recognition and the right to protection in accordance with the relevant provisions.

In order to put the principles of efficient use and equitable access into effect, two major mechanisms for the sharing of orbit and spectrum resources have been developed and implemented — namely, through, on the one hand, a priori planning procedures to meet the need for equitable access to orbit/spectrum resources and, on the other, coordination procedures with the aim of ensuring efficiency in orbit/spectrum use.

In the process of establishing the ITU's space-related legislation, emphasis was laid from the outset on efficient and rational utilization. This concept was implemented through a "first come, first served" procedure. This procedure of "coordination before use" is based on the principle that the right to use a satellite position is acquired through negotiation with the other administrations concerned by the actual usage of the same portion of the orbital segment. This procedure offers means of achieving efficient spectrum/orbit management; it serves to fill the gaps in the orbit as needs arise and results, in principle, in a homogeneous orbital distribution of space stations.

The progressive exploitation of the orbit/frequency resources and the resulting likelihood of congestion of the geostationary-satellite orbit prompted ITU member countries to consider ever more seriously the question of equitable access in respect of orbit/spectrum resources. This resulted in the creation of frequency/orbital position plans in which a certain amount of frequency spectrum is set aside for future use by all countries, particularly those which are not in a position at present to make use of these resources. These plans, in which each country has a predetermined orbital position associated with the free use at any time of a certain amount of frequency

spectrum, together with the associated procedures, guarantee for each country equitable access to the spectrum/orbit resources, thereby safeguarding their basic rights. Such plans govern a considerable part of the frequency spectrum and the most resource-demanding communication services.

The ITU's legal regime governing the use of the geostationary-satellite orbit is the result of more than 30 years of continuous effort by the ITU member countries. The regulatory framework has been constantly adapted to changing circumstances and has achieved the necessary flexibility in satisfying the two major, but not always compatible, requirements of efficient use and equitable access.

With the dramatic development in telecommunication services, for some time now an increasing demand for spectrum/orbit usage for practically all space-communication services has been observed. In some regions, in the most popular satellite frequency bands, it is becoming increasingly difficult to coordinate satellite networks.

This development is taking place in a rapidly changing technical regulatory and commercial environment. These changes include the liberalization and decentralization of the telecommunication sector, a growing market orientation, an increasing involvement of the private sector and a general globalization and commercialization of communications systems. These elements led the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU held in Kyoto in September 1994 to call, under its Resolution 18, for a new, in-depth review of the ITU spectrum/orbit resource allocation procedures.

This review procedure has now been initiated within the Radiocommunication Sector of the ITU. It involves consideration of the basic problems of efficient use of, and equitable access to, the orbit and spectrum resources, but the procedure also comprises the review of other questions, such as the role of national administrations, satellite operators and service providers, dispute-resolution mechanisms, the problem of reservation of orbit capacity without actual use, market considerations and the impact of scientific and technological progress on the spectrum/orbit resource utilization. The results of the review process will be submitted to the World Radiocommunication Conferences to be convened later this year and in 1997 to enable member Governments to further review and revise the legal regime concerning space applications and services.

In addition to those regulatory considerations, the thirty-fourth report of the ITU on "Telecommunication and the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" contains detailed and specific information on the planned satellite systems which have been notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau of the ITU under the Radio Regulations in force and resolutions of World Radio Conferences. In 1994 the Radiocommunication Bureau received information relating to more than 240 new satellite networks, a substantial increase over the figures of recent years. In addition to traditional space systems, particular interest has also been observed in non-geostationary-satellite networks, providing mobile and personal communications.

In conclusion, I would like to draw attention to the programme of the next two major ITU Conferences, which will be held in 1995 and 1997. Both of these World Radiocommunication Conferences have very important space-related issues on their agenda, which members will find in detail in the ITU report before the Committee. The most important issues of concern are: review, possible simplification and approval of new Radio Regulations; consideration of new frequency allocation requirements and related provisions for geostationary and non-geostationary mobile-satellite services; and revision of the broadcasting-satellite orbit position plans and their associated provisions.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.